

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
LAPORTE COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD  
MARCH 12, 2024  
8:30 AM, LAPORTE COUNTY COMPLEX MEETING ROOM 3  
LAPORTE, INDIANA**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tony Hendricks; Jeff Mitzner; Pat Vance; Hugh Glasgow; Connie Gramarossa

STAFF PRESENT: Christine Keil; Brad Adamsky

MEMBERS/STAFF ABSENT: Joe Cuson

PUBLIC PRESENT: See sign-in sheet.

Jeff Mitzner called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Attendance was taken. Hugh Glasgow motioned to approve the last meeting minutes. Connie Gramarossa seconded. Motion carried.

IC 36-9-27.4 REMOVAL OF OBSTRUCTION PETITION: Last month, Tom Vater approached the Board to submit a petition. The Board accepted it and requested a surveyor's report. Hendricks presented the surveyor's report and a map with aerial photos showing flooding. Discussion followed. Connie Gramarossa motioned to forward this to the County Commissioners to make sure the road is in good shape and to set the public hearing for April 9. Pat Vance seconded. Motion carried. The public hearing notice gets sent certified return receipt mail to the respondent after today's meeting. A low area between two fields was filled in and is causing the flooding.

MCKELLIPS DITCH PROJECT: Keil reported that Ken Rutz, New Durham Township, requested to have a portion of the ditch cleaned from the where the tile comes out to the point where it was cleaned a year ago. The distance is 1.8 miles. It will be put on the schedule for this fall and winter.

REGULATED DRAIN CROSSING APPS: NIPSCO, CRUMPACKER ARM, NEAR 1100 WEST: Hendricks reviewed and approved with any crossing under the ditch be at least six feet under the ditch. NIPSCO, TRAVIS DITCH, 250 SOUTH: Hendricks reviewed and approved also. Connie Gramarossa motioned to approve both applications. Pat Vance seconded. Motion carried.

BERRINGER DITCH: Keil received a request from Dan Szilagyi, Lincoln Township, who is at the headwaters of the Berringer. This was cleaned last year. North of the railroad it is very mucky, fills in, plugs the ditch, and floods Szilagyi. He would like to get that 0.6-mile portion cleaned again. Due to time constraints, we can request bids asap. Connie Gramarossa motioned to approve to put out for bid. Glasgow seconded. Motion carried.

**BANK SPRAYING:** Right-of-Way Management was awarded the bank spraying contract to perform a foliar spray after June 15. They contacted Keil to ask if they could perform a dormant spray sooner. After discussion, the Board agreed to stay with the foliar spray after June 15 as was originally awarded.

**CLAIMS:**

Carl Netzer, Little Kankakee River Tree Removal, \$12,900.

J&J Excavating, Warwick Ditch Maintenance, \$6,248.

Jeff Mitzner motioned to pay the claims. Pat Vance seconded. The motion carried.

**HUDSON LAKE:** Georgette Joyce approached the Board to give a monthly report. The water is 12.72” above the weir. No incidents have been reported. Keil will meet with them to check on the level to calibrate the gage. They received a LARE Grant to treat invasive species. They currently have \$220,000 for sediment removal and must raise matching funds. They are still awaiting word from the New Prairie School and the DNR regarding the management plan. The lake level is on the website.

**BRAD ADAMSKY, ATTORNEY:** He gave an update on the Lindborg vs. Bernacchi case. There was an interlocutory filed with the Board of Appeals that may affect the situation. Adamsky will keep the Board updated.

**TONY HENDRICKS, SURVEYOR REPORTS:** He reported that the Kankakee and Yellow River Basin Commission will meet on March 22 in Morocco, Indiana.

There being no other public comment or other items, Jeff Mitzner adjourned the meeting. The next meeting is Tuesday, April 9, at the LaPorte County Complex at 8:30 AM.

Christine Keil, Secretary

Dated: April 1, 2024